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general elements of medical science, in a popular and compressed form, for the use of Pupils and Students, 6s.

Tirocinium Medicum; or, a dissertation on the duties of youth apprenticed to the medical profession; by W. Chamberlaine, 7s.

MISCELLANIES.

An Authentic Narrative of the Ærial Voyage of Mr. Sadler across the Irish channel, in October, 1812, 1s. 6d.

Omniana; or, *Horæ Otiosiores*; by R. Southey, Esq. 12s.

The Cottage Library, 4 vols. 16s.

NOVELS, AND TALES.

The History, and Myself, and my Friend; a novel; by Anne Plumptre, 4 vols. 28s.

Tales, instructive and entertaining; by the Rev. S. Wesley, 4s.

Patience and Perseverance; or another *Modern Griselda*, 4 vols.

POETRY.

Rhymes of Northern Bards; being a collection of old and new songs, and poems, peculiar to the counties of Northumberland and Durham, 6s.

POLITICS, AND POLITICAL ECONOMY.

An Attempt to record the political principles, sentiments, and motives, of the Rt. Hon. Wm. Pitt, 6s.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

Letters from the Continent, describing the manners and customs of Germany, Poland, Russia, and Switzerland, in 1790-1-2, 7s.

Letters on the Nicobar Islands; their natural productions, and the manners, &c. of the natives; by the Rev. J. Haenkel, 3s.

BOOKS PUBLISHED IN DUBLIN.

A Statement of the Penal Laws which aggrieve the Catholics of Ireland; with commentaries, part 3d.

Substance of Two Speeches delivered in the General Synod of Ulster, at its annual meeting in 1812; by the Rev. Robert Black, D.D., senior Presbyterian minister of Londonderry: with an abstract of the proceedings of the Synod relative to the Rev. Dr. Dickson.

Dublin: printed by Stewart and Hopes, King's-Inns-quay, price 1s. 3d.—The profits arising from the sale will be appropriated to the fund for the benefit of the widows and orphan-families of the ministers of the Synod.

BELFAST MAG. NO. LII.

WE promised, that when this long expected publication made its appearance, we should again call public attention to the subjects at issue, between the Synod of Ulster and Dr. Dickson, as conceiving the Pre-byterian body, and the public at large, were interested in the question.

Strong contradictions exist between the Narrative and the present statement, of which we confess our incapacity to decide, for want of a sufficient knowledge of the facts, and besides it is not our wish to make ourselves parties in the cause, but merely to assist in bringing it fully before the tribunal of the public. We have been informed, that Dr. Dickson is preparing an answer to Dr. Black's statement, which is speedily to appear, and until this rejoinder shall be seen, it may be only consistent with justice to suspend a decided judgment. On that part of the subject, one observation, in the mean time, may suffice. Dr. Black repeatedly charges Dr. Dickson with mis-stating facts. It was incumbent on him, in giving quotations, to have been himself accurate. Now at page 56, Dr. Dickson is stated to have represented, in a speech at a Catholic meeting at Armagh, that "the present war with France is a *curst war of aggression*." Without stopping to inquire, whether these expressions, even if they had been used, might not have been justified by a sober, dispassionate review of the subject, although not perhaps to the satisfaction of an AGENT OF GOVERNMENT, who, being in pay, must support their measures as well as he can, and who receives a large salary under them, as a dispenser of their *Regium Donum*; it may be sufficient to state, that, without a forced construction, the Doctor's expressions do not strictly bear that import. His words in the printed copy of the speech are, "How many, whose ancestors our accursed penal code had expelled from their country, and who long have been, and now are, leading our enemies to victory, would return in rapture to her bosom, and fight in her cause? Irish legions, fighting under foreign banners, and commanded by Irishmen, would no more be heard of. Even in our accursed wars of offence, this would add to the probability of our success. But should we ever be reduced to a war of defence, within the boundaries of our own isles, which God forbid! this, and this alone, in the ordinary course of things, would insure our safety, and enable us to bid defiance

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not only to the force, but the fear of an enemy." How far the wars of the present reign may justly be called "wars of offence," will be decided more safely, and more impartially by men removed at some distance of time from the present era, and they will determine how to denominate the war with the Americans, by which they established their liberties; the late Anti-Jacobin war, the result of the concert of Princes against the new-born liberties of France; and also the present war, which, under various shifting pretexts, is still continued.

Dr. Black, in his concluding address to the Synod, appears to expect he will be assailed by a party in this country. "Conscience makes cowards of us all;" and even the warmth of court favour, and the smiles of the Castle, cannot completely eradicate all remembrance of the impressions of juvenile patriotism, and the passing regret at having lost its early ardours. We hear loud boasts of loyalty to the crown, from persons who have long forfeited their loyalty to the people, and yet the one is at least as necessary, and as honourable, as the other, because the people are not made for kings, but kings ought only to exist for the good of the people, and as first magistrates of a free state. This is sound doctrine, however convenient it may be for some to forget it, and to boast of exclusive loyalty to one branch of the constitution.

The Doctor says, he has deserved the censure of those who, he expects, will assail him. He has not in his printed copy named the *Belfast Magazine*, although, we understand, that in his speech he honoured us by name with his censure. To return the compliment, it is the boast of the proprietors of this work, to have deserved so well of our country, as to have merited this public reprehension of our labours, in support of the genuine principles of liberty; and we thank the Doctor, for having thus noticed us, and given to us the certificate of his disapprobation, as we cannot avoid feeling proudly conscious, that we are entitled to it.

In considering all the matters that bear on the questions at issue in this statement, it may be pardonable to make a few remarks on the *Regium Donum*, in addition to those which have from time to time appeared in this Magazine against it, and which none of the defences of it, which have been freely inserted in our pages, have invalidated.

The first grant in 1672, appears to have been given as a recompense to those who suffered during the Commonwealth, for their attachment to Charles II., and regal power, and was one of the few acts of justice performed by that versatile and ungrateful monarch. In accordance with the grant, being a remuneration for losses, and not as an obligation for future services, or to smother the flame of genuine patriotism, the four ministers with whom Sir Arthur Forbes consulted, fixed, that it should be distributed so "that each minister who was in the country in the year 1660, should have an equal proportion, and that the widows and orphans of those who had been removed by death, might share of the King's bounty." Now the case is materially changed, and it is no longer a just retribution to actual sufferers, but a measure calculated by government as a means to render the Presbyterian people and ministers dependent on their bounty. In this submission to power, and truckling for pay, the people are certainly as much to blame, as their ministers. They wish to save their pockets, and if not to lessen their former stipends, at least not to make them commensurate with the increased expenses of living. The effect has been, that the Dissenting interest is not now, as formerly, so decidedly in favour of liberty, and both people and teachers share in the obloquy of bartering their independence for the increased Royal Bounty.

The times are changed since the years 1780, 1781, and 1782. To change an opinion from conviction, is always allowable and praiseworthy; but when the change happens to coincide with apparent motives of self-interest, suspicion will be always awake, and the utmost stretch of candour will be insufficient to account for a most material change, without attributing it to motives not altogether pure. If additional grounds for suspicion were wanting, they might be furnished by the language of the present statement, which in many places is evidently calculated to please at the Castle, and among the supporters of what is styled a strong government. The aim of the writer is more to gain the solid advantages of pleasing men in power, in which, without doubt, he expects to find his reward, than in advocating the cause of the people, of which Sidney and Hampden, and many others, were glorious advocates. Thus, wrap

in apathy, and in his emoluments, in his own language, the Doctor expects "to stand safe."

A great part of the preface is evidently written with a view to render apparent his loyalty to the government, and is calculated to please those who take delight to dwell on the excesses and errors committed in the cause of liberty. The cant of permitting the events of 1797, 1798, and the few succeeding years "to sink into oblivion," is common, but the wish is vain. History will record those events,

and all parties have much to learn from the errors of those days, in which they mutually participated, while many seek to hide their change in a sweeping indiscriminate condemnation of all attempts to reform, and ameliorate the condition of the people. But the review of those transactions may be productive of good, and is only objected to by those who wish to keep things as they are, and who delight in telling the world, that "things are very well," because they have succeeded in their selfish views. K.

DOCUMENTS.

THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editors of the Liverpool Mercury.

GENTLEMEN,

FROM the observations which have appeared both in the Liverpool and London papers, it seems an opinion very generally entertained, that the people of America are hostile to the present war. I perceive this belief with regret, as I know it to be entirely unfounded, and as I am fearful, that, by misleading my countrymen, it may be injurious to their interests. During the latter part of my residence in the United States, and so late as the 23d September, I made it my object to learn the sentiments of the people, and I had sufficient leisure to devote to the attainment of the information I desired.

It must be confessed, that the Eastern Federalists, and the merchants of New York, are still as violently opposed to the war as they always have been: but in the State of New York generally, and thence to the Southward as far as Georgia, I believe I am correct in asserting, that there are certainly six-tenths of the people prepared to support their government in almost any extremity to which the present measure may lead them. They are aware, that war, in the abstract, is highly prejudicial to their interests; but they contend, that the injuries which Great Britain has heaped upon their heads, are such as to make it necessary; and that a sense of national honour demands their support for the administration by which it has been

declared. They have resorted to the measure, in order to obtain those rights which they have in vain attempted to establish by friendly negotiation; and having once committed themselves to the hazard of war, they will support the contest, until they either obtain their demands, or are worsted in the effort. That *all* the demands of America are just, even her warmest friends in this country can scarcely contend, but unless the greater part of them are conceded to her, (which we can hardly for a moment suppose,) it is very certain that no attention will be paid to the overtures, of which Sir J. B. Warren is said to be the bearer.

In this state of things, the only hope of peace is from the election of De Witt Clinton; and of this I am afraid there is little prospect. His partizans are sanguine, and it is certain, that a delegation from the Federalists, have promised him their support; but the most favourable calculation which I have been able to obtain, will leave him in a minority; and out of the 218 votes, I should conceive that Madison will have a majority of from 10 to 20. Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and the Western States, are almost wholly in his favour; and Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, are also partially the same.

Much as the situation, (which this view of our relations with America leads us to anticipate,) yet it is now too late to lament over it; and it is to be hoped, that the ministers by whose *energetic* measures we have been plunged into the calamity,